



For Families

Outcome Measurement Tools (OMTs) in the ASF: Frequently Asked Questions

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Outcome Measurement Tools

1. What is an outcome measurement tool?

Outcome measures are tools that therapeutic practitioners can use to help understand the difficulties a child or young person is experiencing. They are routinely used to understand the impact and outcomes of therapy for the child or family receiving the service. Outcome measurements are typically taken at the start and end of therapy but may also be used at review points to check progress.

2. Why is it important to measure therapeutic outcomes?

Measurement tools can help identify what is important to the child or family receiving therapy, as well as what their goals are; they can also track progress towards those goals over time. Measurement tools also provide information that helps make collaborative decisions about next steps in terms of support.

3. Why is DfE introducing outcome measurements to the ASF application process?

Since the ASF began in 2015, over £300m of funding has supported around 45,000 children and young people. Independent evaluation and feedback from the sector show it is having a positive impact. The purpose of introducing outcome measurement tools in

ASF applications is to help ensure that the support children and families receive is right for them and as effective as possible. By being involved, you will be helping to improve how we capture the outcomes of specific therapies funded by the ASF.

4. Is the use of outcome measurement tools a mandatory requirement for the ASF?

As of 4 December 2023, all ASF applications for therapeutic support will need to select at least one outcome measurement tool per application. If the application is solely for a Specialist Assessment, then an outcome measurement is not required.

5. Who decides which outcome measurement tool to use?

Your local authority/Regional Adoption Agency (LA/RAA) will discuss and agree with the therapeutic provider and you, which measurement tool will be most suitable for your family’s needs.

6. How many outcome measurement tools will be used?

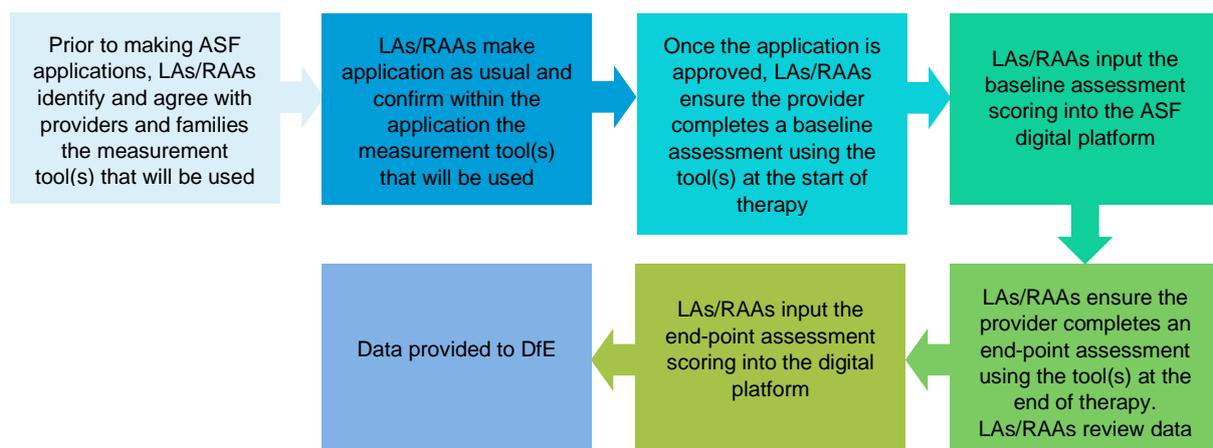
The DfE is using five measurement tools to capture outcomes of ASF-funded therapy. The LA/RAA is required to use at least one of the five tools, but can choose to use more than one if appropriate and agreed with you.

OMT process

7. How will the introduction of outcome measurement affect the ASF application process?

The process of applying to ASF will not change. Applications will be processed in the usual way. The only difference is that once any agreed therapy starts, one or more of the outcome measurement tools will be used at the beginning and end of therapy to measure progress.

8. What is the outcome measurement process for ASF?



9. At what stage in the process will the Outcome Measurement Tool be used?

As a minimum, the outcome measurement tool will need to be completed at the start and end of any therapy funded by ASF. If agreed with your therapist, the tools can also be

completed at review points throughout the therapy to help monitor progress, but the ASF will only be collecting measurements at the beginning and end of therapy.

10. How are the outcome measurement tools administered?

The therapeutic provider will arrange with you to carry out the measurement before the therapy starts and again at the end of therapy. This may be a form that they ask you to complete in advance of the first therapy session, or it may form part of your initial meeting with your therapeutic provider.

11. If there is more one child receiving the service, do they all need an outcome measurement?

Yes. The therapeutic provider will measure the outcomes of each child receiving the therapeutic service. That means that if there are three children receiving family therapy, the provider will use the outcome measurement tool three times to capture the progress of each individual child.

12. Can families opt out of being involved in outcome measurement?

Yes. Involvement in outcome measurement has no impact on the ASF application process and the ability to access therapy via the fund. All data collected, as with all ASF applications, will be anonymous. If you do not wish for your high-level outcomes data to be provided, you can choose to opt out.

Outcome Measurement Tool (OMT) Data

13. Will the data shared with ASF about families be anonymous?

Yes. As with applications to the ASF, all information provided about children and families will be anonymous. For the purposes of analysis, data will be collated with that from other applications.

14. How will the data collected be used / what will it be used for?

The data from the outcome measurement tool used will be held and saved by providers and the commissioning LA/RAA. The commissioning LA/RAA and the provider should ensure that they comply with the relevant legislation when gaining consent from the family before collecting and processing the data.

The data inputted on the ASF platform will be collated by Mott MacDonald, the appointed administrators of the ASF, and shared with the DfE to inform the future development of the ASF. All family data collected will be anonymous and, as with all data on the ASF, no identifying information will be held or used by the DfE or Mott MacDonald.

15. Will future applications be dependent on the outcomes reported?

Data collected by the DfE as part of outcome measurement will not be used to assess individual applications. LAs/RAAs may wish to consider using the information collected to determine the form of support needed for children and families and help inform their commissioning requirements.